

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR., Wisconsin
CHAIRMAN

HENRY J. HYDE, Illinois
HOWARD COBLE, North Carolina
LAMAR S. SMITH, Texas
ELTON GALLEGLY, California
BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia
STEVE CHABOT, Ohio
DANIEL E. LUNGREN, California
WILLIAM L. JENKINS, Tennessee
CHRIS CANNON, Utah
SPENCER BACHUS, Alabama
BOB INGLIS, South Carolina
JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, Indiana
MARK GREEN, Wisconsin
RIC KELLER, Florida
DARRELL ISSA, California
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona
MIKE PENCE, Indiana
J. RANDY FORBES, Virginia
STEVE KING, Iowa
TOM FEENEY, Florida
TRENT FRANKS, Arizona
LOUIE GOMHART, Texas

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951
<http://www.house.gov/judiciary>

March 22, 2005

JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

HOWARD L. BERMAN, California
RICK BOUCHER, Virginia
JERROLD NADLER, New York
ROBERT C. SCOTT, Virginia
MELVIN L. WATT, North Carolina
ZOE LOFGREN, California
SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Texas
MAXINE WATERS, California
MARTIN T. MEEHAN, Massachusetts
WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Massachusetts
ROBERT WEXLER, Florida
ANTHONY D. WEINER, New York
ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, California
ADAM SMITH, Washington
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, Maryland

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to ask that you immediately commence work on the emergency issue of gun violence in our schools. Yesterday, ten individuals were shot and killed, including five students, in a gun rampage by a high school student in Minnesota. In addition, the student apparently wounded at least 14 other individuals before killing himself. The student shooter was able to perpetrate this massacre despite the presence of a guard and the school's use of metal detectors.

There are many potential responses to the shooting spree that our Committee could consider, including enhanced child safety guards, closing of gun loopholes (including the loophole recently identified by the GAO in their report for Senator Lautenberg), renewal of the federal assault weapons ban and limits on ammunition magazine capacity, increased school security measures, and increased resources for state and localities to hire and retain safety officers. With regard to each possible solution, we are more than willing to work with you on a bipartisan basis in considering these or any other potential responses to yesterday's tragic events.

In the past, we established a bipartisan process after Columbine and came up with a juvenile delinquency prevention bill and a juvenile accountability bill which were virtually unanimously supported. Unfortunately, the funding for those two bills has been reduced by more than half since they were enacted and further cuts are proposed in the Administration's current budget proposals. We should reexamine our strong bipartisan goals and steps leading to these bills to see what further steps may be necessary.

The Committee is fully able to function on important policy matters of this nature even when the House is in adjournment. It is difficult for us to conceive of a more pressing public policy matter than protecting our children from school violence. As we learned in the wake of the Columbine tragedy, the risk of copy-cat incidents is particularly grave in the aftermath of such incidents, making immediate congressional action all the more imperative.

Thank you for promptly considering this request.

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Page 2
March 22, 2005

Sincerely,

John Longenecker
Robert Wexler
[Signature]
[Signature]

Ronald Nadler
Linda F. Sanchez
Melvin R. Watt
Shelia Adam Lee
Chris Van Hulle